GENERAL SECRETARIAT.

Reviews the Reports on the working of the several Town and Minor Municipalities in the State during the year 1928-29.

READ—

The reports on the administration of the several Town and Minor Municipalities in the State for the year 1928-29 and the reviews of the Deputy Commissioners of Districts thereon.

2. Letter No. 511—LAD., dated 25th January 1930, from the Comptroller, forwarding the report on the audit of these Municipalities during the year 1927-28.

ORDER NO. L. 249-63—ML. 148-29-20, DATED 10TH JULY 1930.

Recorded.

2. *Number of Municipalities.*—During the year, the Malebennur Municipality in the Chitaldrug District was disestablished and two new Municipalities were constituted at Belakavadi and Yelandur in the Mysore District. Orders were issued for the constitution of the non-regulation Municipality at Sringeri in the Kadur District into a Municipality under the Mysore Municipal Regulation, 1906. There were at the end of the year 66 Minor and 37 Town Municipalities.

3. *Constitution.*—No general elections were held in the Shimoga District. In the other Districts, elections were held in regard to the reconstitution of 15 Municipal Councils and the constitutions of two new Municipal Councils at Belakavadi and Yelandur. The elections in the Belakavadi Municipality having failed, the vacancies were filled up by nominations under Section 10 (2) of the Mysore Municipal Regulation. In the case of the elections in the Bangalore and Kadur Districts, the seats are said to have been fairly well contested, 67·22 per cent of the voters having attended the polling in the case of the Channapatna Municipal elections. The disqualification of women from becoming Municipal Councillors was removed during the year by amending the Municipal Regulation.

4. *Strength of Councils and Meetings.*—The total strength of members in all the Municipalities on the last day of the year was 1,554, of whom 738 were elected members, 301 *Ex-officio* members and the rest were nominated by Government. The number of meetings held by these Municipal Councils during the year was 1,612, of which 892 were ordinary, 387 special and the rest adjourned meetings. In the Kolar District all the Municipalities held the prescribed number of meetings, but in the case of the other Districts, Government note that certain Municipalities did not hold the required number of meetings, in spite of the instructions issued in para 4 of Government Order No. L. 7624-35—Ml. 150-28-48, dated 20th May 1929. Out of 143 meetings held during the year by all the Municipalities in the Kadur District, 40 had to be adjourned for want of quorum. This unsatisfactory feature is specially noticeable in the cases of Chikmagalur, Mudgere and Narasimharajapura. The members of the Municipal Councils concerned should be informed that Government hope that the Municipal Councillors will realise that their position is one of trust, dignity and responsibility and that they will discharge their duties to the public in a satisfactory manner in future. The attendance at most Municipal meetings is said to be generally fair except in the case of the Dodballapur Municipality in the Bangalore District and certain Municipalities in the Shimoga District, where the attendance of the *ex-officio* members was poor. This is very unsatisfactory. The officers concerned should be informed that failure to attend these meetings without reasonable cause will receive the serious notice of Government.

5. *Presidents and Vice-Presidents and other office bearers.*—The Municipal Councils of Tumkur, Chikmagalur, Hassan and Tiptur continued to have the privilege of electing a non-official President. The privilege of electing their Vice-President was withdrawn during the year from the Sravanabelgola Municipal Council in the Hassan District and a non-official gentleman was nominated as Vice-President. A Chief Officer was employed for the Arkalgud Municipality for six months and a Revenue Officer was sanctioned for the Hassan Municipal Council.

6. *Committees.*—Health and Managing Committees are said to have been constituted in almost all the Municipalities in the several Districts but in many cases the Committees did not meet and transact any business. The Committees in the Tumkur and Shimoga Districts are said to have shown an improvement in their working while in the Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts the Committees are said to have not worked satisfactorily. No information is furnished about the working of the Committees in the Kolar District. Audit Committees were also constituted in certain Municipalities of the Bangalore, Tumkur and Mysore Districts and it is reported that the Committees formed in the Tumkur and Sira Municipalities have done good work. No Committees are said to have been formed for the audit of the Municipal Accounts in the Chitaldrug District. This is not satisfactory. The Deputy Commissioners should issue necessary instructions to all Municipalities to have at least three Committees, *viz.*, Managing, Audit and Health Committees and see that these Committees meet regularly and do useful work.

7. *Bye-laws and Rules.*—No information is furnished about the bye-laws framed by the several Municipal Councils in the Bangalore and Chitaldrug Districts. In the Mysore District bye-laws for the registration of the births and deaths were framed and sanctioned by Government in the case of one Municipality, *viz.*, Mandya. In the other Districts, the usual bye-laws for the regulation and control of octroi, sanitation, vaccination, births and deaths, water-supply, construction of buildings, etc., were framed and sanctioned by Government in several cases. All Municipal Councils should be advised to frame necessary bye-laws on all important matters for which bye-laws have not yet been framed.

The provisions of the Public Conveyance Regulation were extended to the Davangere Municipality and special powers were also conferred on this Municipality under Section 149 (2) of the Municipal Regulation.

8. *Finance and Incidence of Taxation.*—The year opened with a balance of Rs. 5,36,890. The income and expenditure amounted to Rs. 14,69,598, and Rs. 15,39,178, respectively, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,67,310 at the end of the year. The expenditure during the year was more than the income in the case of Bangalore, Kolar, Hassan and Chitaldrug Districts. The incidence of taxation per head of population ranged from Re. 0-1-7 in the Belakavadi Municipality in the Mysore District to Rs. 5-7-4 in the Davangere Municipality, Chitaldrug District.

9. *Collection of Municipal Dues.* From the reviews of the Deputy Commissioners it is seen that the arrears in the Channapatna Municipality are very heavy, being almost twice the current demand. The Chief Officer should exert himself and recover the dues very early. In the Tumkur District the collection work in the Gubbi, Kunigal and Koratagere Municipalities is reported to be very bad, while there was some improvement in the Sira Municipality. The arrears are very heavy in the Town Municipalities of Hunsur, Nanjangud and Seringapatam as also in several minor Municipalities in the Mysore District. Energetic steps should at once be taken to recover all these arrears, especially by the Municipal authorities in Nanjangud and Hunsur where there has been great slackness in the matter. In the Hassan District, the collection work is said to be generally bad and this is reported to be due partly to the negligence on the part of the executive of the Municipal Councils and partly to the want of proper wholetime collection agency. In the Hassan, Arkalgud and Konanur Municipalities special temporary staff was entertained for collection work but in the case of other Municipalities the arrears are said to be increasing year after year. It is further reported that proper attention has not been paid to collection work, even in Municipalities presided over by Government Officers. The Deputy Commissioners are requested to issue proper instructions to the presiding officers for early recovery of Municipal revenues (both Current and Arrears). In the Shimoga District there was a general improvement in collection, but there has been no reduction in the arrears which is said to be the heaviest in the Shiralkoppa Municipality. In the Kadur and Chitaldrug Districts also the collection work is said to be not satisfactory, the arrears in several Municipalities being very heavy. Government are glad to note that in the case of the Hosdurga Municipality the collection work is said to be good, the balance pending recovery being only Rs. 29. From the Comptroller's report on the audit of the Municipal Accounts during 1927-28, it is seen that in several Municipalities proper steps were not taken for the timely revision of assessment of house and other taxes, that proper attention was not paid to the collection of taxes with the result that it was

found necessary to write off heavy sums which had become either irrecoverable or time barred. In several important Municipalities, the Councillors themselves are said to be heavily in arrears from a very long time and this prevented them from taking necessary measures for the recovery of the arrears in other cases. It will be seen from the above that there was no appreciable improvement in the collection work during the year under review.

10. *Public Works, Town Improvements and Water Supply.*—The usual grant of Rs. 1 lakh was sanctioned by Government during the year for Town Improvements. The Executive Engineer, Town Planning and Sanitary Division, inspected several Municipalities and several schemes of Town Improvements approved by him, such as removal of congestion, formation of new roads and circles, parks and construction of Town Halls, etc., were in progress in the several Municipalities. The first stage of the drainage scheme of Davangere Town was almost completed and about 110 acres of land were acquired by the Municipal Council at a cost of Rs. 32,216 for extending the town. The Jubilee Hall at Kolar and Chikballapur were completed and opened during the year. Projects for the improvement of the drainage of Chikmagalur and Tarikere were under consideration. A drainage scheme for Tirthahalli, at a cost of Rs. 34,867 was got ready, but the work had to be put off for the present owing to the poor finances of the Municipality. The work of filling up the ditch around the Chitaldrug Town could not be taken up during the year as the grant of Rs. 5,000 made by Government for the purpose was utilised for other urgent improvement work in the town. An estimate of Rs. 90,000 was sanctioned for water-supply to the Hunsur Town and the work made good progress. The construction of additional reservoirs for improving the water-supply to Hiriyur Town was also sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 11,320 and the work was almost completed. A project for improvement of water-supply to Kolar was under consideration of Government. Further improvements were effected to the water-supply of Shimoga and Chikmagalur Towns. The Devikere Tank was repaired at a cost of Rs. 5,000 for improving the water-supply to Hassan Town and a few bore holes were also sunk. Bore holes were also put down for improving the water-supply to Dodballapur and Tiptur Towns. The Sagar Municipal Council was permitted to purchase well-boring apparatus at a cost of Rs. 2,540. Electric installations were opened in Closepet and Channapatna Municipalities and schemes for the electrification of Tumkur, Kolar, Chikmagalur, Anekal, Magadi, Hoskote and a number of other places were under various stages of progress.

11. *Public Health and Sanitation.*—Public Health was generally good in all the Districts, though plague, cholera and small-pox were prevalent in several places during the year. Necessary timely measures are said to have been adopted by the several Municipal Councils for arresting the spread of the diseases and for their prevention in future.

12. *Public Instruction.*—A sum of Rs. 5,324 was spent on Primary Education in the Districts of Tumkur, Shimoga and Chitaldrug. Information has not been furnished in respect of other Districts. A Municipal High School partly subsidised out of Municipal funds was newly opened at Dodballapur. The opening of an Aided High School at Chintamani was sanctioned during the year. The Sagar Municipality contributed Rs. 10,630 for the Municipal High School at the place and the Tirthahalli Municipal Council have also promised to contribute towards the construction of a building for the local High School. The question of levying Education Cess in Anekal Municipality is said to be under consideration and instructions were issued to certain Municipal Councils in the Chitaldrug District to take action to levy the Education Cess.

13. *Inspection of Municipal Offices.*—All the Offices in the Chitaldrug District except Konanur and 4 and 6 Offices in the Shimoga and Kadur Districts, respectively, were inspected by the Deputy Commissioners of the Districts concerned during the year. No information has been furnished about the inspections made by the Deputy Commissioners of the other Districts, in spite of the observations made by Government in their review on the previous year's administration report of the Municipalities in the State.

14. *Audit of Accounts.*—Audit Committees are said to have been constituted in certain Municipalities in the Bangalore and Kadur Districts, but no appreciable work was turned out by them. No serious irregularities are said to have been noticed

during the audit of the accounts of the several Municipalities for 1927-28, by the Local Audit Staff of the Comptroller's Office, except in Dodballapur where three cases of temporary misappropriation were reported and necessary action is being taken in the matter. The report of the audit of the accounts of the Municipal Offices received from the Comptroller discloses that there has been no improvement in certain matters noticed in the previous reports, such as inordinate delay in the disposal of audit notes, irregular and illegal levy of taxes, unauthorised and objectionable expenditure, want of vouchers, delay in the revision of assessment of house and land taxes, slackness in collections of current and arrear demands and consequent loss of revenues to the Municipalities, violation of financial rules, etc. It is further reported that the audit notes with the replies of the Municipal Councils are in many cases received through the Deputy Commissioners without any remarks or orders where necessary. This is unsatisfactory and should be avoided in future.

15. *General.*—Government regret that in spite of the observations made in the last year's review, there has been no improvement in the timely submission of the reviews from the Deputy Commissioners for the year under reference also, the review from the Hassan District having been received only on 16th May 1930, after the issue of several reminders. The reviews continued to be defective as usual. It is hoped that better attention will be bestowed to the correct preparation and timely submission of the reviews in future. Government look upon Municipal Administration as one of the most important duties entrusted to Deputy Commissioners and look to Deputy Commissioners to see that the duty is discharged with zeal and earnestness.

16. During the year His Highness the Maharaja visited Hassan and Hole-Narsipur and laid the foundation stone of the New Chamarajendra Hospital Buildings at Hassan. He was also pleased to open the Narasamma Maternity Buildings at Hole-Narsipur. Their Highness the Maharaja and the Yuvaraja visited Chikmagalur and His Highness laid the foundation stone of the New General Hospital and the Sri Krishnarajendra Silver Jubilee Building. The Jubilee Halls at Kolar and Chikballapur were completed during the year and His Highness the Yuvaraja was pleased to perform the opening ceremony of these buildings. Government are glad to note that the Non-Official Councillors, Presidents and Vice-Presidents continued to take keen interest in the administration of the Municipal Council affairs this year also. There is however scope for considerable improvement in the work of many of the Municipal Councils.

17. The draft bill for amending the Municipal Regulation is under the consideration of the Special Committee appointed to scrutinise it and their proposals are awaited.

R. RANGA RAO,
General Secretary to Government.